(b) whether Government would propose to confiscate the movable and immovable properties of corrupt bureaucrats, public servnts, politicians and leaders immediately on their conviction as an exemplary punishment; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 1944 (Ordinance No. 38 of 1944) provides for attachment of property of the accused who is alleged to have committed offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 or any conspiracy or attempt to commit offences thereof. The property can be attached by the Special Judge during the course of trial. Subsequently, after termination of criminal proceedings and conviction of the accused, the Special Judge is empowered to forfeit the property of the convicted public servant to the Government under the aforesaid Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 1944. CBI takes necessary action for attachment/forteiture of property of an accused public servant in appropriate cases.

Undeclared ban on the Recruitment

†2381. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have imposed an undeclared ban on the recruitment in various Government services;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the centre has also issued some directives to the State Governments in this regard;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if not, the details of the recruitment made during the last five years in various Groups such as "A", "B", "C" and "D" cadre-wise and year wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) to (c) Govern- ment have not issued any general orders putting a total ban on recruitment for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government jobs. However, keeping in view the need for fiscal prudence and austerity, instructions have been issued by the Ministry of Finance requesting all Ministries / Departments etc. not to fill-up vacant posts until a review was done by the cocnerned Administrative Ministry / Department in consultation with the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure). Copy of these instructions have been endorsed to all the State Governments with the request to consider issuing similar instructions.

(d) The information is not centrally maintained.

Officials on Government watch list

2382. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a news-item titled "172 officials on Government watch list" appeared in the Times of India dated 20th January, 2000;

(b) whether these officers are from almost every sphere of administration;

(c) if so, what exemplary punishment with wide publicity through electronic media is proposed to be given to them; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) The officers whose names are included in this list are those against whom either the proceedings have been completed and punishment imposed or against whom proceedings are in progress or against whom the allegations received are under investigation / inquiry. The imposition of a suitable punishment on delinquent officials is a sufficient deterrent in itself against malpracties.

Merger of Major companies in Petroleum sector

†2383. DR. D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee constituted by Government had

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.